

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 15 into the application. Marked-up versions of these claims showing the additions and/or deletions are set forth in Attachment A.

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1. (Amended) A navigation system comprising:

    a map data storage section for storing map data including road information regarding a partial lane in a plurality of lanes constituting a road, where advancing or leaving between a partial lane relative to another lane is permitted only in a predetermined authorized section, said road information regarding a partial lane comprising node and link data wherein a predetermined authorized section for advancing or leaving is stored as a node and a section of the partial lane extending between two authorized sections is stored as a link;

    a vehicle position detecting section for detecting the position of a vehicle; and

    a navigation processing section for performing a predetermined navigation operation, based on said position of the vehicle detected by said vehicle position detecting section and the map data stored in said map data storage section;

    wherein lane change guidance between a partial lane and another lane is performed at a timing that takes into consideration the location of a desired road exit and one of the width of the road and the number of lanes in the road.

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9. (Amended) A navigation system comprising:

    a map data storage section for storing map data including road information regarding a partial lane in a plurality of lanes constituting a road, where advancing or leaving between a partial lane relative to another lane is permitted only in a predetermined authorized section, said road information regarding a partial lane comprising node and link data wherein a predetermined authorized section for

advancing or leaving is stored as a node and a section of the partial lane extending between two authorized sections is stored as a link;

a vehicle position detecting section for detecting the position of a vehicle;

a route search processing section for searching a driving route and setting the guidance route, taking the use of said partial lane into consideration;

a timing judging section for judging a timing for performing predetermined guidance notification regarding said authorized section, based on the position of said authorized section on said guidance route and said position of the vehicle; and

a guidance notification section for performing said guidance notification at a timing judged by said timing judging section;

wherein lane change guidance between a partial lane and another lane is performed at a timing that takes into consideration the location of a desired road exit and one of the width of the road and the number of lanes in the road.

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14. (Amended) A navigation system comprising:

a map data storage section for storing map data including road information regarding a carpool lane, said road information separately describing the carpool lane as link and node data;

a vehicle position detecting section for detecting the position of a vehicle;

a route search processing section for searching a driving route and setting the guidance route, taking the use of said carpool lane into consideration;

a timing judging section for judging a timing for performing guidance notification of a route change regarding advancing/leaving points, based on the advancing/leaving points where advancing or leaving between a carpool lane and ordinary lanes on said guidance route is permitted and said position of the vehicle, at the time of route guidance, and

for performing guidance notification that the vehicle is approaching said advancing/leaving point, based on the advancing/leaving points and said position of the vehicle, when the route guidance is not being performed, and

a guidance notification section for performing guidance notification of a route guidance regarding said advancing/leaving points at the time of route guidance, and performing guidance notification that the vehicle is approaching said advancing/leaving point, when the route guidance is not being performed.

15. (Amended) A route guidance method in a navigation system comprising:

storing map data including road information regarding a partial lane in a plurality of lanes constituting a road, where advancing or leaving between a partial lane relative to another lane is permitted only in a predetermined authorized section, said road information regarding a partial lane comprising node and link data wherein a predetermined authorized section for advancing or leaving is stored as a node and a section of the partial lane extending between two authorized sections is stored as a link;

detecting the position of a vehicle;

searching a driving route and setting the guidance route, taking the use of said partial lane into consideration;

judging a timing for performing predetermined guidance notification regarding said authorized section, based on said authorized section on said guidance route and said position of the vehicle; and

performing said guidance notification at a timing judged by said timing judging section;

wherein lane change guidance between a partial lane and another lane is performed at a timing that takes into consideration the location of a desired road exit and one of the width of the road and the number of lanes in the road.